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**WHEN WILL YOUR BALLOT  
BE COUNTED? THE PERKS OF  
VOTING EARLY. »**

**CUT SAN QUENTIN PRISON POP. BY  
HALF, COURT ORDERS »**

**VIRUS SPIKES HAVE OFFICIALS  
LOOKING TO SHORE UP HOSPITALS »**

# LOCAL

## WHEN WILL YOUR BALLOT BE COUNTED? THE PERKS OF VOTING EARLY.

October 21, 2020 | CalMatters

Flo Hodes is doing everything she can to avoid post-Election Day BS. A Democratic voter living in Oakland, she has watched with

**“We’re counting ballots right now as we speak,” said Joe Holland, Santa Barbara County registrar. A new law permits officials to process incoming ballots starting Oct. 5.**

mounting concern President Donald Trump’s refusal to say whether he will abide by the reported election results, his continued ef-

forts to undermine public confidence in voting by mail, and recent operational changes at the U.S. Postal Service. An estimated 58% of likely voters — Democrats, Republicans and independents — worry that the presidential election results will not be “fair or open,” according to a recent statewide survey out of UC Berkeley. To counteract any “shenanigans,” Hodes says she is hoping for a victory so overwhelming and immediately apparent that it will be beyond dispute. “I want it to be just a clear landslide on the night of or the next morning,” she said. A prolonged period of electoral uncertainty after that would allow “for all kinds of bull\*\*\*\* to happen.” There is no statewide directive dictating the order in which ballots must be counted, said Chris Miller, spokesperson for the California election-regulating secretary of state. But if you want your ballot counted as soon as possible, know that county officials say they’ll mostly be tallied in this order:

### 1. The Early Votes

“We’re counting ballots right now as we speak,” said Joe Holland, Santa Barbara Coun-

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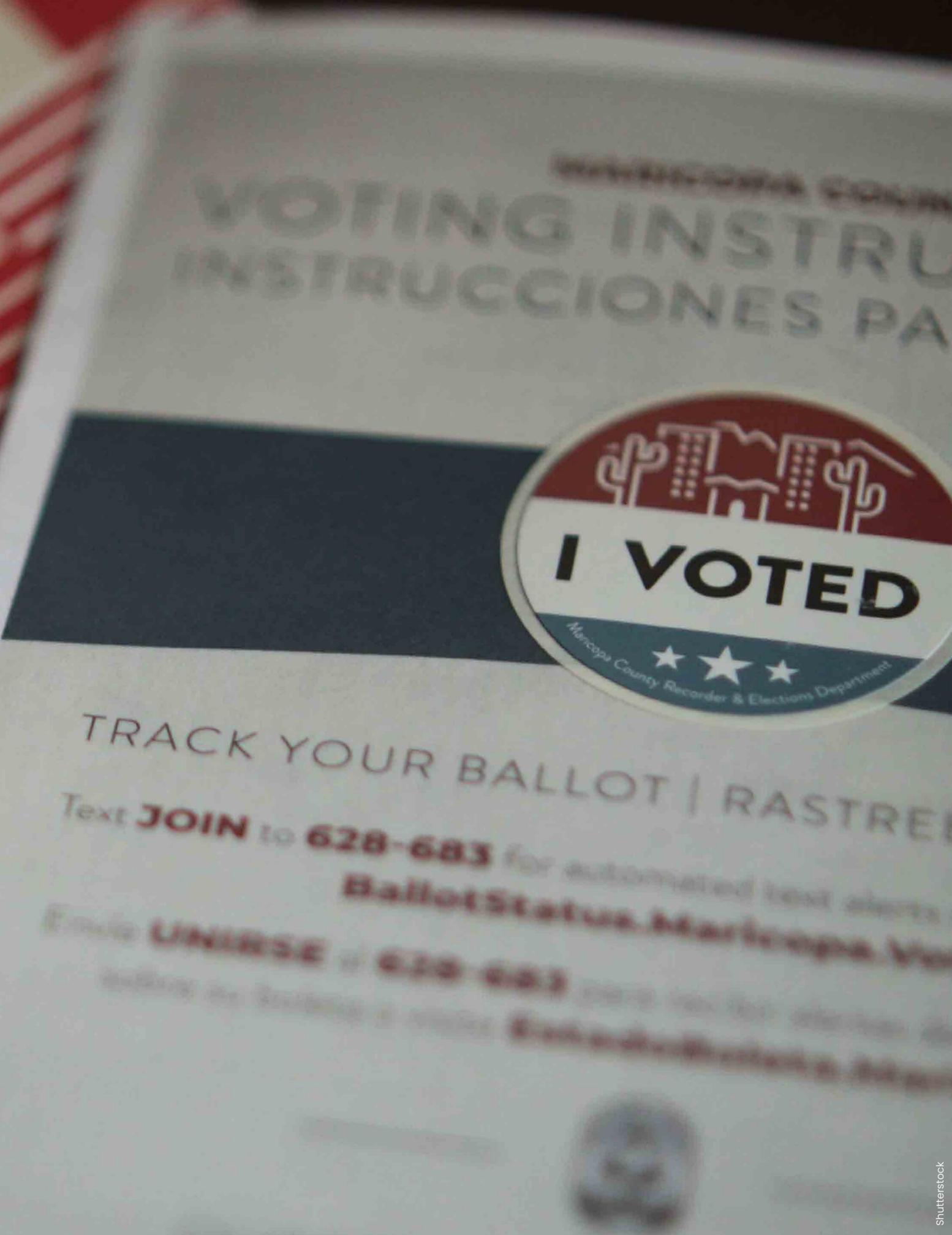
ty registrar. A new law permits officials to process incoming ballots starting Oct. 5. “Processing” means checking for valid signatures, removing envelopes, sorting and, in some cases, actually feeding ballots into a counting computer. Officials aren’t allowed to peek at those numbers until the polls close, but by 8:01 p.m. on Nov. 3, many counties will be able to deliver the first batch of numbers. The method of transport doesn’t matter much. Whether a ballot gets to the county by mail, through a drop box or delivered to a vote center, the earlier a ballot arrives, the more likely it will be tabulated first.

At a certain point — likely no earlier than the weekend before Election Day — county officials will have to stop pre-processing in-coming ballots and start prioritizing Election Day planning, responding to the inquiries of panicky voters, handling the onslaught on in-person early voting and addressing various emergencies. “It’s just about capacity,” said Holland. “If you wait until the last minute, the results of your ballot don’t show up on election night.”

### 2. The Traditionals

Once the early votes are counted and reported, election officials will turn to ballots cast in-person on Election Day. State law requires county registrars to stay in their office until all of...

**Cathy Darling Allen, the Shasta County registrar, said the farthest precinct from her Redding office is a two-hour drive. The night-of count can’t end until those ballots arrive. “We’ve never been done by midnight — we can’t be,” she said.**





## RALLY LEADERS SAY FUNDS, COMMUNICATION LACKING FROM CITY HALL IN ANTI-VIOLENCE EFFORT

October 21, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

Fresno police say they're seeing more shootings in every policing district this year than at the same time last year. Resources are stretched thin, different strategies are being utilized, and some progress is being made, according to deputy chief Mark Salazar. However, what's not working according to some community members? Silence from City Hall.

A coalition of local organizations say they're not hearing enough, or anything, from elected officials. That's why they're holding a rally with police chief Andy Hall and Mayor-elect Jerry Dyer this Friday at 11 a.m. in front of city hall. One co-sponsor of the rally says if

the city could fund a block party in each district, each month of the year, at \$10,000 an event, the violence could be squelched before it even begins.

### Take A Stand Committee Friday Rally

Cheryl Sumler lost her 18 year old granddaughter to gun violence on May 29th, 2017 just 10 days before she was set to graduate high school. She says Friday's rally is a call to action. "My heart is still bleeding and every every shooting, every death. My heart even bleeds more," says Sumler to GV Wire<sup>SM</sup> by Zoom. Sumler is a board member for the nonprofit Take A Stand Committee, focused on making the...

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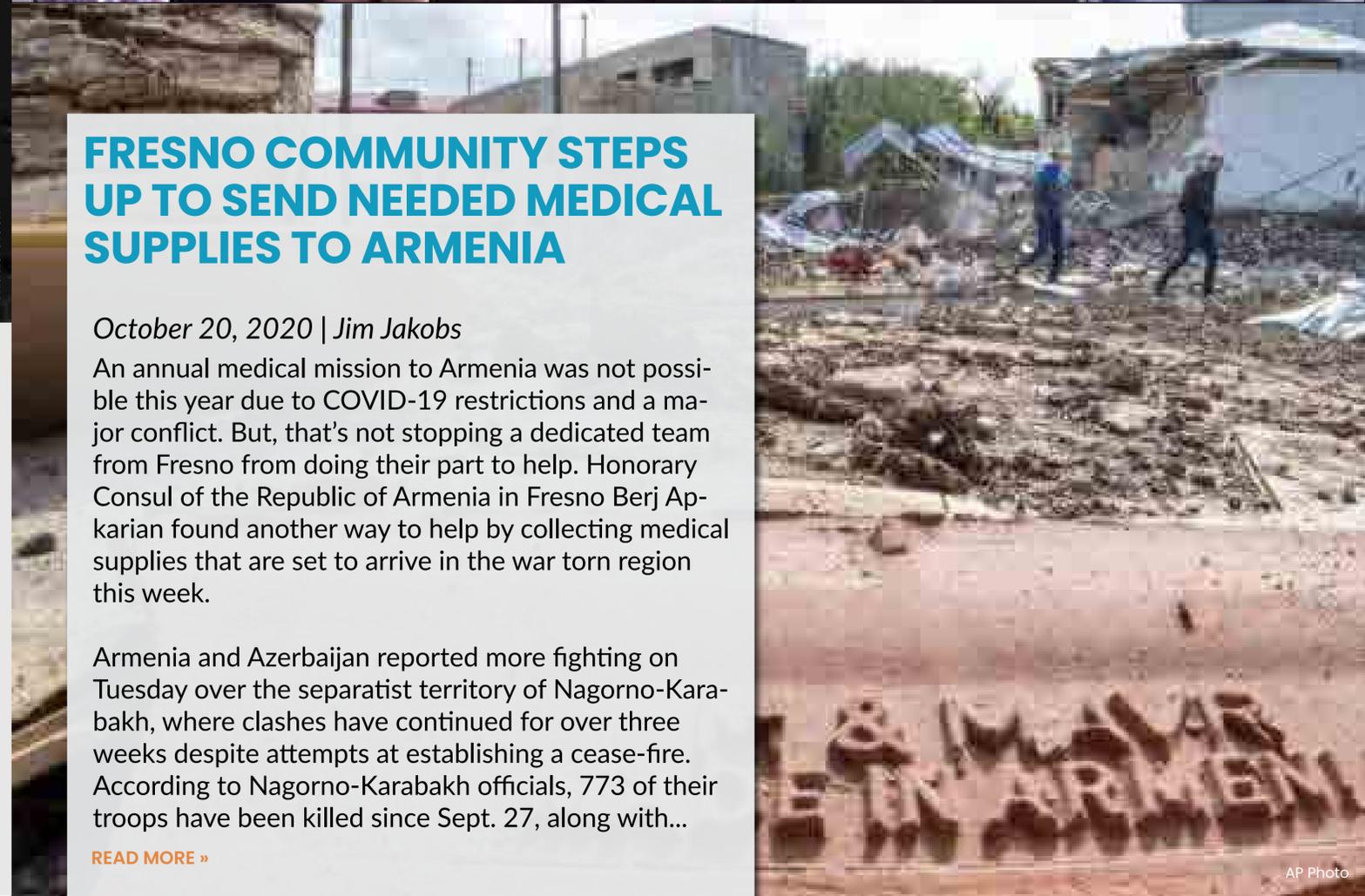


## MOBILE MEAL BUS FEEDS NEEDY CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL BREAKS

October 20, 2020 | Sponsored by Community Medical Centers

Five days a week, families in Fresno's struggling neighborhoods are on the lookout for a brightly colored bus decorated with elementary students' drawings of broccoli stalks with bright eyes, smiling pizza...

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## FRESNO COMMUNITY STEPS UP TO SEND NEEDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ARMENIA

October 20, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

An annual medical mission to Armenia was not possible this year due to COVID-19 restrictions and a major conflict. But, that's not stopping a dedicated team from Fresno from doing their part to help. Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno Berj Apkarian found another way to help by collecting medical supplies that are set to arrive in the war torn region this week.

Armenia and Azerbaijan reported more fighting on Tuesday over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, where clashes have continued for over three weeks despite attempts at establishing a cease-fire. According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 773 of their troops have been killed since Sept. 27, along with...

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# STATE CUT SAN QUENTIN PRISON POPULATION BY HALF, COURT ORDERS

October 21, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — A California appeals court has ordered state corrections officials to cut the population of one of the world’s most famous prisons to less than half of its designed capacity, citing officials’ “deliberate indifference” to the plight of inmates during the coronavirus pandemic. State prison officials said Wednesday that they are deciding whether to appeal the order, which otherwise will force them to parole or transfer about 1,100 inmates serving time in San Quentin State Prison north of San Francisco.

California’s oldest prison, home to its death row, was the site of one of the nation’s worst coronavirus outbreaks, with 28 inmate deaths and 2,200 infections at its peak — about 75% of the inmate population. Nearly 300 employees were sickened and one died, though all but nine employees are now back to work. It was “the worst epidemiological disaster in California correctional history,” the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco said in Tuesday’s ruling. The three-justice court said

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officials’ decision not to cut the inmate population by half, as recommended by prison officials’ outside advisors in June, was “morally indefensible and constitutionally untenable.” Assemblyman Marc Levine, a Democrat who represents the area, on Wednesday said that without a

further significant reduction, “it is not a question of if another COVID-19 spike will happen at San Quentin, it is a question of when.” However, there is only one current active coronavirus case at San Quentin, and two other California prisons now top it for both active cases and cumulative number of infections. San Quentin’s outbreak flared when prison officials botched the transfer of inmates from a Southern California prison in May, inadvertently sending infected prisoners who had not been recently tested.

The three appellate justices said the state failed to present any evidence to the contrary. Their unanimous order requires prison officials to house no more than 1,775 inmates in space designed for about 3,100 inmates and a staffed capacity of nearly 4,500 inmates.

**The Prison Then Housed More Than 3,500 Inmates, Many With Health Vulnerabilities**  
Cases exploded, driven by “the unique architecture and age” of the prison that opened in 1852, and its “exceedingly poor ventilation, extraordinarily close living quarters, and inadequate sanitation,” wrote experts at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and the University of California, San Francisco. The prison then housed more than 3,500 inmates, many with multiple health vulnerabilities, the experts found. Cutting the population by half would allow many inmates to be housed separately and let officials clear more space to keep inmates spaced for treatment, quarantine or to reduce the virus’...

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# OAKLAND APPROVES NEW HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS IN CONTENTIOUS DECISION

October 21, 2020 | AP News

OAKLAND — Officials in Oakland approved a contentious new policy that will allow encampments, but prohibit homeless people from setting up tents in parks or near homes, businesses, schools and some churches in the city that has seen a recent spike in the homeless population.

The Oakland City Council unanimously approved the measure Tuesday after more than 100 community members spoke mostly against the rules that also allow homeless encampments in certain areas of

the city as long as they follow safety and sanitation rules.

Mayor Libby Schaaf said the policy, which will start being enforced in January, establishes Oakland's first citywide rules on homeless encampments. She called it "a compassionate response to an unacceptable condition." "I'm grateful to the City Council who voted unanimously for a new encampment policy that will help us improve the well-being of all our residents, housed and unhoused," she said in a...

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# WATCHMAN COULD HAVE SAVED LIVES IN CALIFORNIA BOAT FIRE, PROBE FINDS

October 20, 2020 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — The lack of a required night watchman aboard a scuba dive boat delayed the detection of a fast-moving fire that trapped and killed 34 people below deck as the vessel was anchored off the Southern California coast last year, federal investigators said Tuesday.

The predawn fire aboard the Conception is one of California's deadliest maritime disasters, prompting criminal and safety investigations. The Sept. 2, 2019, tragedy killed 33 passengers and one crew member on a Labor Day weekend expedition near an island off Santa Barbara. Investigators told the National Transportation Safety Board that because some of the recovered bodies were wearing shoes, they...

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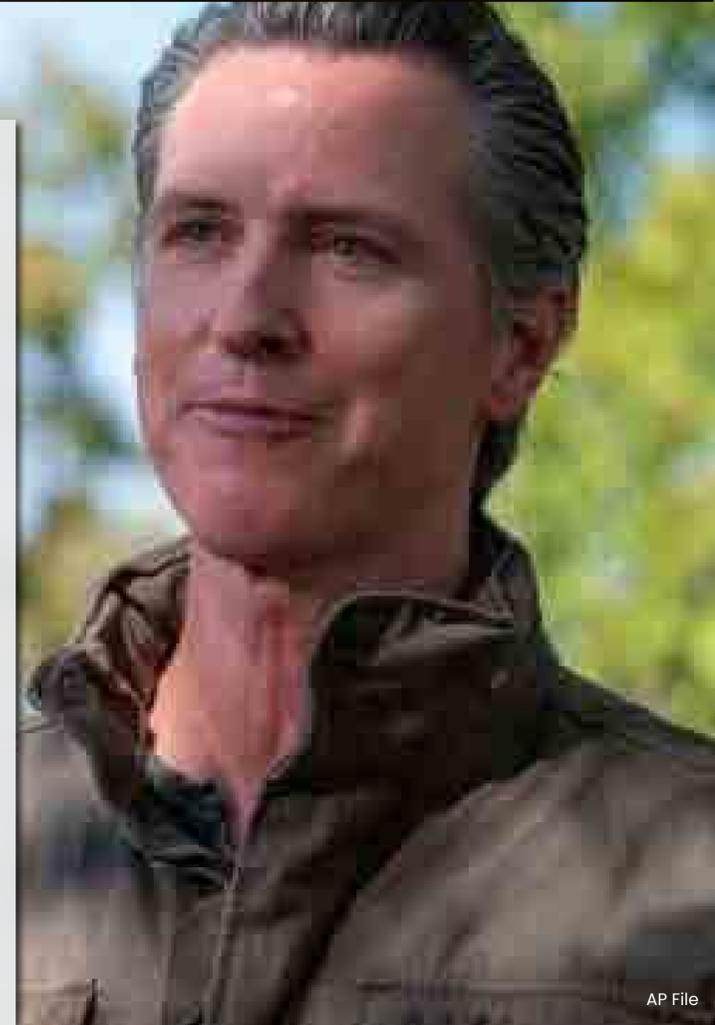
# NEWSOM WON'T CHANGE 'SLOW' APPROACH IN STATE DESPITE IMPROVED COVID STATS

October 20, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Near the end of September, with coronavirus cases falling and more schools and businesses reopening, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration urged restraint, citing a statistical model that predicted a startling 89% increase in virus hospitalizations in the next month.

That hasn't happened. Instead, state data shows hospitalizations have fallen by about 15% since that warning while the weekly average number of new cases continues to decline even as other more populous states like Florida, Ohio and Illinois see increases. California's good news isn't enough to change what Newsom calls his "slow" and "stubborn" approach to reopening the world's fifth-largest economy. He...

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# VIRUS SPIKES HAVE OFFICIALS LOOKING TO SHORE UP HOSPITALS

October 21, 2020 | AP News

BOISE, Idaho — Hospitals across the United States are starting to buckle from a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, with several states setting

**“We are now going back to our plans about capacity in hospitals, looking — if we have to — at hotel options and the use of state parks,” Gov. Andy Beshear said during a recent briefing. “Ensuring that we have the operational plans to stand up the field hospital, if necessary.”**

records for the number of people hospitalized and leaders scrambling to find extra beds and staff. New highs in cases have been reported in states big and small — from Idaho to Ohio — in recent days. The rise in cases and hospitalizations was

alarming to medical experts. “It’s really worrisome,” said Saskia Popescu, an epidemiologist at George Mason University. Around the world, disease trackers have seen a pattern: First, the number of cases rises, then hospitalizations and finally there are increases in deaths. Seeing hospitals struggling is alarming, she said, because it may already be too late to stop a crippling surge.

“By the time we see hospitalizations rise, it means we’re really struggling,” Popescu said. In Kentucky, the governor called the number of daily confirmed cases “grim,” forcing another round of preparations to expand hospital capacity. “We are now going back to our plans about capacity in hospitals, looking — if we have to — at hotel options and the use of state parks,” Gov. Andy Beshear said during a recent briefing. “Ensuring that we have the operational plans

to stand up the field hospital, if necessary.” The governor reported 776 people hospitalized, including 202 in intensive care and 96 on ventilators. There were 1,312 new COVID-19 cases statewide Tuesday — the fourth-highest one-day total since the pandemic began.

## More Than 40 Million People Around the Globe Have Been Infected and More Than 1.1 Million People Have Died

At the other end of the country, Idaho reported its largest coronavirus spike, with new cases increasing by some 47% over the past two weeks. Idaho is currently sixth in the nation for new cases per capita, with a positivity rate of just over 15% — one of the country’s highest. Still, Gov. Brad Little has resisted calls for a statewide mask mandate, saying it’s up to individuals to take the necessary steps — wearing masks, social distancing and practicing good hygiene — to stem the surge.

**“As a health system, we’re all very concerned,” said Dr. Bart Hill, the vice president and chief quality officer of St. Luke’s Health System, the state’s largest. “It’s indicative of anticipating we’re going to see more hospitalizations affecting an older population in the next two, three, four weeks.”**

“As a health system, we’re all very concerned,” said Dr. Bart Hill, the vice president and chief quality officer of St. Luke’s Health System, the state’s largest. “It’s indicative of anticipating we’re going to see more hospitalizations affecting an older population in the next two, three, four weeks.” “The direction we’re heading is one that looks real...

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# TRUMP TENDS TO HIS ELECTORAL MAP, BIDEN EYES OBAMA BOOST

AP File

October 21, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is hoping from one must-win stop on the electoral map to the next in the leadup to a final presidential debate that may be his last, best chance to alter the trajectory of the 2020 campaign.

As Democrat Joe Biden holes up for debate prep in advance of Thursday's faceoff in Nashville, Tennessee, he's hoping for a boost from former President Barack Obama, who will be holding his first in-per-

son campaign event for Biden on Wednesday in Philadelphia. Obama, who has become increasingly critical of Trump over the three and a half years since he left office, will address a drive-in rally, where supporters will listen to him over the radio inside their cars.

It comes a day after Trump, trailing in polls in many battleground states, stopped in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Trump was bound for North Carolina on...

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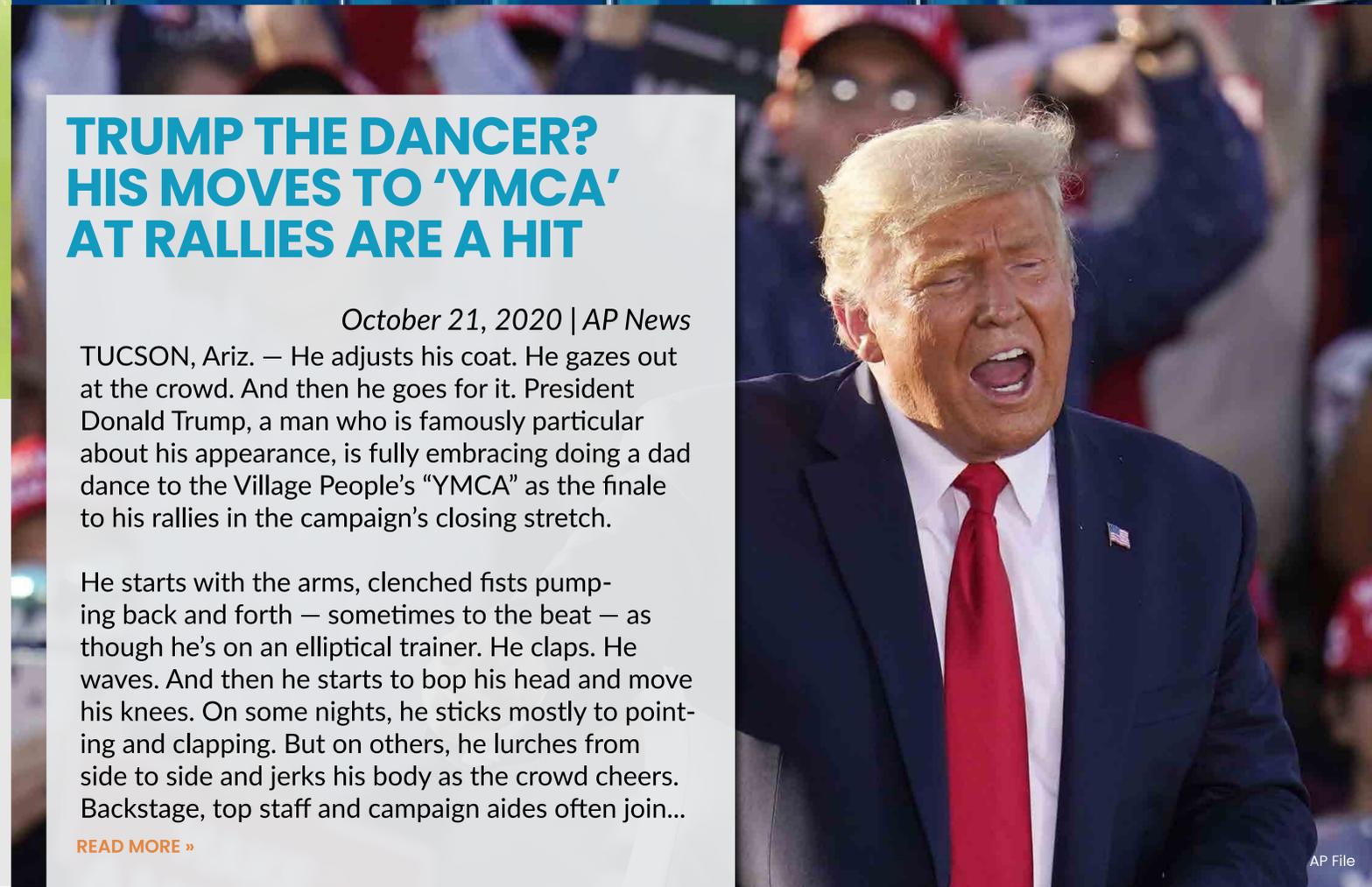
# JUSTICE DEPT. FILES LANDMARK ANTITRUST CASE AGAINST GOOGLE

October 20, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Tuesday sued Google for antitrust violations, alleging that it abused its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and harm consumers. The lawsuit marks the government's most significant act to protect competition since its groundbreaking case against Microsoft more than 20 years ago.

It could be an opening salvo ahead of other major government antitrust actions, given ongoing investigations of major tech companies including Apple, Amazon and Facebook at both the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission. "Google is the gateway to the internet and a search advertising behemoth," U.S. Deputy Attorney General Jeff...

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# TRUMP THE DANCER? HIS MOVES TO 'YMCA' AT RALLIES ARE A HIT

October 21, 2020 | AP News

TUCSON, Ariz. — He adjusts his coat. He gazes out at the crowd. And then he goes for it. President Donald Trump, a man who is famously particular about his appearance, is fully embracing doing a dad dance to the Village People's "YMCA" as the finale to his rallies in the campaign's closing stretch.

He starts with the arms, clenched fists pumping back and forth — sometimes to the beat — as though he's on an elliptical trainer. He claps. He waves. And then he starts to bop his head and move his knees. On some nights, he sticks mostly to pointing and clapping. But on others, he lurches from side to side and jerks his body as the crowd cheers. Backstage, top staff and campaign aides often join...

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# WORLD

## MANY THORNY GLOBAL SITUATIONS HINGE ON US ELECTION OUTCOME

October 21, 2020 | AP News

LONDON — Four years after Donald Trump’s election reframed how many nations interacted with the United States, the way that the world’s foremost superpower moves forward after its presidential election stands to impact many geopolitical pressure points — whether the victor turns out to be Trump or his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden. From Iran to Cuba, from China to Israel, American involvement and influence on the international stage has evolved sharply since Trump took office in 2017. He swept away agreements with some nations, alienated longstanding allies and pulled out of multilateral obligations that he said didn’t serve the interests of the United States. Though the international community has

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sometimes criticized Trump’s “America First” tenure, underscored by the president’s approach to the coronavirus pandemic, there were already places, issues and conflicts where the United States’ involvement wasn’t always appreciated — under his predecessor, Barack

Obama and other recent American leaders.

Before the pandemic struck, in the beginning of 2020, the most serious global concern was whether Washington and Tehran were on the cusp of a ruinous war that would inflame

the Middle East. While that has ebbed, many around the world are watching closely to see what happens next — and who will be living in the White House three months from today. Here’s a look at some key issues whose direction will be, in part, steered by who wins the U.S. presidency. *Virus Geopolitics*  
The Nobel Peace Prize, won by Obama while in office, was something Trump had hankered for himself. But the honor went this month to the U.N. World Food Program. It was a resounding endorsement of a multilateral effort — the United Nations’ main message — during a pandemic that has caused serious food insecurity as it engulfs the world.

**Trump has made efforts to maintain relations with Vladimir Putin’s Russia despite his own intelligence agencies’ confirmation of Moscow’s interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, which sought to aid him, and allegations that Russia secretly offered bounties for American deaths in Afghanistan.**

“We are sending a signal to this type of nationalism where the responsibility for global affairs is not being faced,” Nobel committee head Berit Reiss-Andersen said. In the pandemic era, Trump has lambasted the World Health Organization and largely rejected multilateralism, as have likeminded leaders such as Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro and Britain’s Boris Johnson, who, like Trump, both downplayed the coronavirus and were infected by it themselves. With the United States still in the virus’ vise and more than 220,000 dead, a rebound hitting Europe and...

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# CORONAVIRUS SPREADS IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH AMID HEAVY FIGHTING

October 21, 2020 | AP News

STEPANAKERT, Nagorno-Karabakh — People who are sick with the coronavirus pack into chilly basements alongside the healthy to hide from artillery fire. The local health minister who tested positive keeps working, despite a fever and pneumonia. Doctors with the virus perform surgery on the wounded.

These are the grim realities of the pandemic in Nagorno-Karabakh, a separatist region in the South Caucasus mountains beset by weeks of heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces.

“We just don’t have time to think about coronavirus,” said Irina Musaelyan, a resident of the regional capital of Stepanakert who was sheltering in a basement with her neighbors.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia for more than a quarter-century. It is facing the largest escalation of fighting since a war there ended in 1994, with hundreds killed since Sept. 27. Two attempts at cease-fires have failed...

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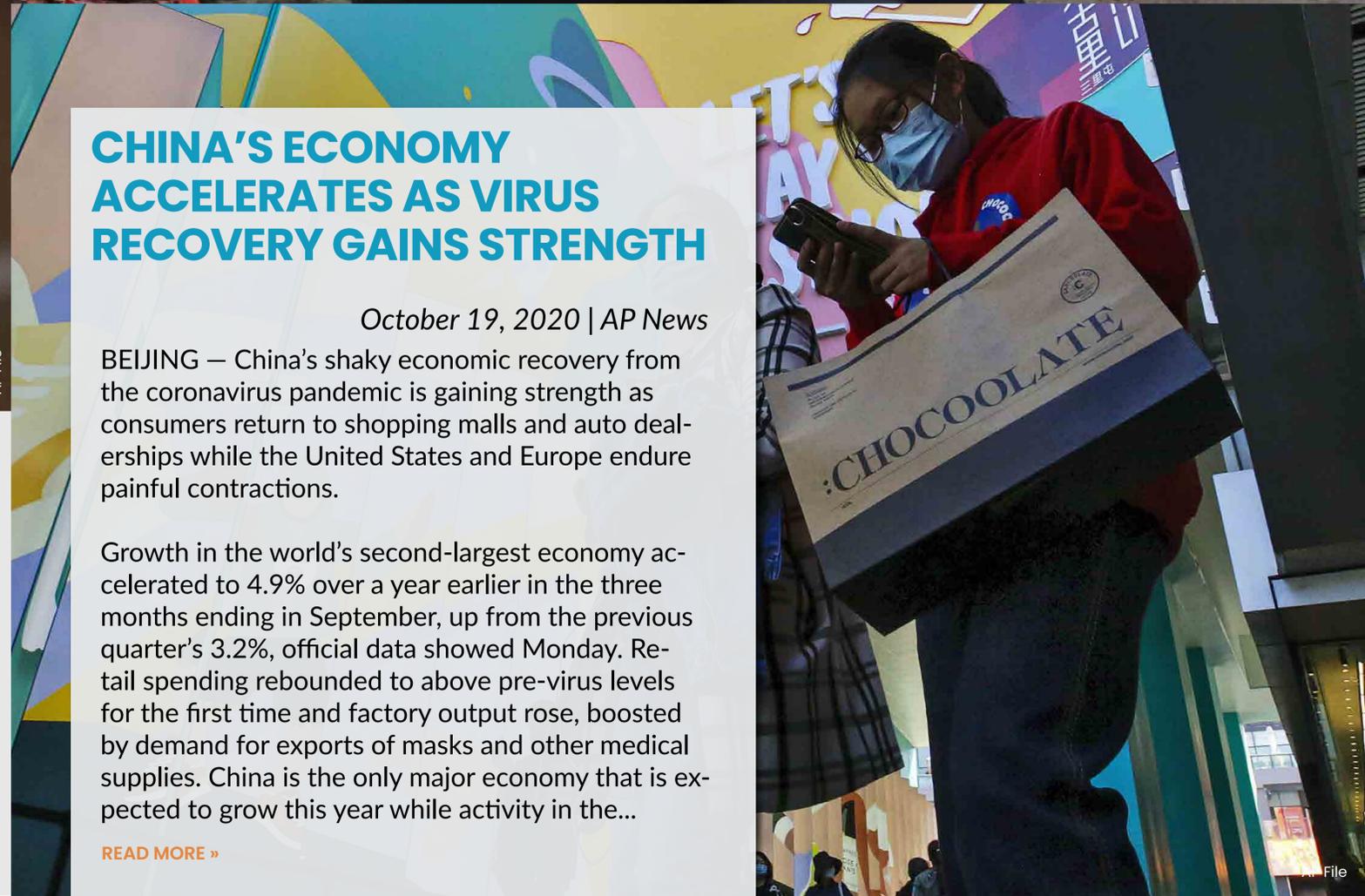
# UK TO INFECT HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS IN VACCINE RESEARCH TRIAL

October 20, 2020 | AP News

LONDON — U.K. researchers are preparing to infect healthy young volunteers with the virus that causes COVID-19, becoming the first to announce plans to use the controversial technique to study the disease and potentially speed up development of a vaccine that could help end the pandemic.

This type of research, known as a human challenge study, is used infrequently because some consider the risk involved in infecting otherwise healthy individuals to be unethical. But researchers racing to combat COVID-19 say that risk is warranted because such studies have the potential to quickly identify the most effective vaccines and help control a disease that has killed more than 1.1 million...

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# CHINA’S ECONOMY ACCELERATES AS VIRUS RECOVERY GAINS STRENGTH

October 19, 2020 | AP News

BEIJING — China’s shaky economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is gaining strength as consumers return to shopping malls and auto dealerships while the United States and Europe endure painful contractions.

Growth in the world’s second-largest economy accelerated to 4.9% over a year earlier in the three months ending in September, up from the previous quarter’s 3.2%, official data showed Monday. Retail spending rebounded to above pre-virus levels for the first time and factory output rose, boosted by demand for exports of masks and other medical supplies. China is the only major economy that is expected to grow this year while activity in the...

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